

7/25/73

Dear Roy,

While missing none of the Sonato hearings and keeping up with the extensive news coverage, I have also continued writing. Aside from bits and pieces written for use as text or as notes and reminders, I now have 20-25,000 words written from the top. Oh, I have done a fair amount of writing.

In the absence of a contract which would call for delivery of a rough draft in about five weeks, I believe the book will be better for keeping up with everything. This is why I didn't drop everything else and write.

So far, aside from the personal performance of the various witnesses and principals, nothing has been a surprise. In fact, it was easy to write some developments before they happened. (I do this from time to time not in vanity but as a check on my understanding and accuracy. Not that it doesn't please vanity.)

There is no change in the planned content, for only new details have become available, not new facts or meanings. However, the sequence, while less uncertain, is not yet certain. The material, as I am sure you realize, is extraordinarily extensive and complex. Yet it must be kept comprehensible and made to appear to be simple. One of the factors in this is the order of presentation. While I am undertaking to write with easy rearrangement in mind, I would prefer for this not to be necessary.

So, having decided on the beginning, I began. More than I can write in the next two weeks with the time taken by the hearings and other things is set in my mind.

All of my recent writing has been with materials that were diffuse, extensive and complicated. With these books I found in every case that the only way it worked out was to let it work out. In each case it did. It will now, too.

My purpose is not only to give you a progress report. It is to inquire about your silence. It is long past the time of Dr. Gross' anticipated return from Germany. As his going was delayed, so also on his return he. However, I believe he said that if he had an answer before the time of his return, he would phone you.

If you have no word, you have no word to give me.

However, if you do have an answer, it is important for me to have it, particularly if it is negative.

If you remember what I said, it is all happening as I said. This, among other things, convinces me that I have an important work.

In addition, there has been an exceptional shift in public attitudes. People are eating up Watergate as though it were Chateaubriand. Aside from what I get from apolitical people, I have other measures. ABC, for example, has not been content with its third-day presentation of the rotation. It has pre-empted 100% of its TV time for Watergate all this week, as it did with Dean.

Whatever it is, when you have definite word, I would appreciate hearing it.

Best,

Harold Weisberg